



Proclamation

Presented to

Edward "Skipppa" Diaz

WHEREAS, Edward "Skipppa" Diaz was raised in Kalihi, Hawai'i with seven birth siblings and seven *hanai* siblings; he grew up with a passion for books, history and athletics – football, track and swimming; and

WHEREAS, Edward "Skipppa" Diaz set two age-group swimming records in the butterfly and freestyle categories while swimming for Palama Settlement; and

WHEREAS, Edward "Skipppa" Diaz, one of Hawai'i's legendary athletes, graduated from Farrington High School in 1962 where he was noted as an All-Interscholastic League of Honolulu standout and later returned to pursue a life as a coach and educator; and

WHEREAS, Edward "Skipppa" Diaz attended Oregon State University where he played football, set shot-put records, and made the All-Pac-10 team as a defensive tackle and played in the Hula Bowl; he graduated in 1968; and

WHEREAS, Edward "Skipppa" Diaz played professionally in the Canadian Football League with the British Columbia Lions before returning to Oregon to obtain a Masters Degree; and

WHEREAS, Edward "Skipppa" Diaz returned to Hawai'i and served as an educator and coach; he began his career as a teacher at Washington Intermediate and assistant coach at Kalani High School before taking a job at Waialua High School where he became the football coach and met his soulmate, Mary, in 1973; the two married in 1977; and

WHEREAS, Edward "Skipppa" Diaz became a teacher at his alma mater, Farrington High School, in 1979, and a year later, named head coach, a position he held for 17 seasons, in which he led the Governors to: 103 game wins, the state playoffs 12 times, including nine consecutive seasons (1990-1998) and victory in 1990 when they won the State Championship title; and

WHEREAS, Edward "Skipppa" Diaz retired from teaching in 1999 and served as Deputy Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation with City & County of Honolulu and on the Aloha Stadium Authority before leaving for Wisconsin to become caregivers to Mary's parents and brother; and

WHEREAS, Edward "Skipppa" Diaz inspired many young athletes and inspired them to persevere through times of difficulty with his favorite quote, "bite down...and go hard!"; and

WHEREAS, Edward "Skipppa" Diaz will be celebrating his 68th birthday on February 17, 2012;

THEREFORE I, NEIL ABERCROMBIE, Governor, and I, BRIAN SCHATZ, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim February 17, 2012 as

"EDWARD 'SKIPPA' DIAZ DAY"

in Hawai'i and ask the citizens of the Aloha State to join us and in celebrating the accomplishments and achievements of "Skipppa" Diaz, a noted athlete, role model and mentor for many of Hawai'i's *keiki* and pillar of our community.

DONE at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this seventeenth day of February, 2012.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor, State of Hawai'i

BRIAN SCHATZ
Lt. Governor, State of Hawai'i